

HA-1482

1886

Jacob Forder House
622 Rock Spring
Bel Air
private

A very individual house, the Jacob Forder house has an idiosyncratic front gable which reaches a sharp (and high) point. It does have a round-head 2/2 window in the gable. The pride of the house is an excellent plaster medallion and cornice in the parlor, both items rare in Town. Their presence is easily explained: Jacob Forder was a master plasterer. One hopes he found artistic solice in plain plastering, for the Hopkins House on Main Street is the only other house with plaster decorations that springs to mind.

C. Milton Wright, Harford County historian and longtime Superintendent of Schools made his home here for many years.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jacob Forder House

AND/OR COMMON

Robbins House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

622 Rock Spring

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles L. Robbins

Telephone #: 838-5677

STREET & NUMBER

622 Rock Spring

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 627

Folio #: 335

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

116-1472

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story house with a steeply pitched slate gable roof and equally sharply pitched front gable is at 622 Rock Spring in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is now sided in aluminum. The front gable holds a round-headed 2/2 double-hung sash window. The other windows are also 2/2 except those in the first story front (east) elevation which are 2/4, and a pair (n) and a trio (s) of 10 pane casements in the north two bays of the rear (west) elevation of a rear porch Mr. Wright enclosed as an alcove or "den" off the dining room. The front porch has a hipped roof carried on chamfered posts on blocks. The entrance is in the North bay of the front (east) elevation. It is composed of a three pane transom, two pane over panel sidelights around a single pane over three panel door, the whole sheltered from the elements by a rectangular air lock of many glass panes over panel, entered from the south side.

A narrow molded box cornice is on the east and west elevations at roof line with short returns on the three bay north & south elevations. The north and south elevations have ordinary 2/2 windows low in the gables to light the attic level.

The rear (west) elevation is three bay with a single story shed roof porch, the north half of which is enclosed. A lath lattice breaks the wind on the south end of the porch. The rear entrance is at an angle at the south end of the enclosed portion.

The interior shows a side hall plan with the hall to the north. The dog-leg, open string staircase rises against the north wall of the house. It has turned balusters and the ubiquitous fat turned Victorian newel post. The living room, south of the hall, has a fine plaster center medallion (Jacob Forder's work) in the center of the ceiling and a plaster molded cornice, thin on the tops of the walls and pleasantly thick around the perimeter of the ceiling. The mantel, at an angle in the north west corner of the room, is a 20th century replacement with a molded frieze and a dentil band under the shelf. Half of the fireplace has been bricked up. There were formerly french doors between the living room and the hall. The woodwork throughout is molded.

The dining room opens west off of the hall. The Robbins added a chair rail and have painted the wall below the woodwork and the chair rail a Williamsburg blue-gray. Mr. Robbins said he knew it was unsuited to the period, but they were trying to break up the tall walls with the horizontal line. Opening west out of the rear of the dining room through an arch is the small "den" Mr. Wright made when he enclosed that portion of the rear porch.

Behind (west) of the living room and south of the dining room is the kitchen, reached through an odd and intriguing, if inconvenient, triangular hall. Several other houses on Rock Spring and Roland have this little triangular space between dining room and kitchen. Perhaps the whimsey of the same (unknown) carpenter?

There are three bedrooms and a bath on the second floor and three rooms on the third floor, one of which Mr. Robbins uses for a study. Above the third level in the steeply sloped roof is an attic.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1886	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house with the uniquely peaked front gable was built by master plaster Jacob Forder in 1886 on land purchased in Dallam's Second Addition (56/218, 434). While the house has a common side hall floor plan, Forder displayed his plastering skills in the parlor where he placed a center medallion around the drop gas fixture and a smooth cornice that is thin along the upper edge of the walls and widens on the ceiling.

Forder sold the property to Hannah McCurdy in 1890 (66/523). The McCurdys conveyed the house to H. Willard Tarring in 1912 (137/275).

In 1929 the house was purchased by C. Milton Wright (213/195). Wright was Superintendent of Harford County Schools from 1915 to his retirement in 1945. He was also Harford County's pre-eminent historian, publishing Our Harford Heritage in 1967.

After Mrs. Wright's death, Mr. Wright sold the house to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robbins. Mr. Robbins teaches American History at the Vocational-Technical High School, and Mrs. Robbins teaches retarded children at the John Archer School.

NA-172

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #113 in the Town of Bel Air, 100' x 200'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian	8 November 1979
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Town of Bel Air	838-8700
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
39 Hickory Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Bel Air	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

ADDENDA (May 1990)

Jacob Forder House
622 Rock Spring Avenue
HA-1482

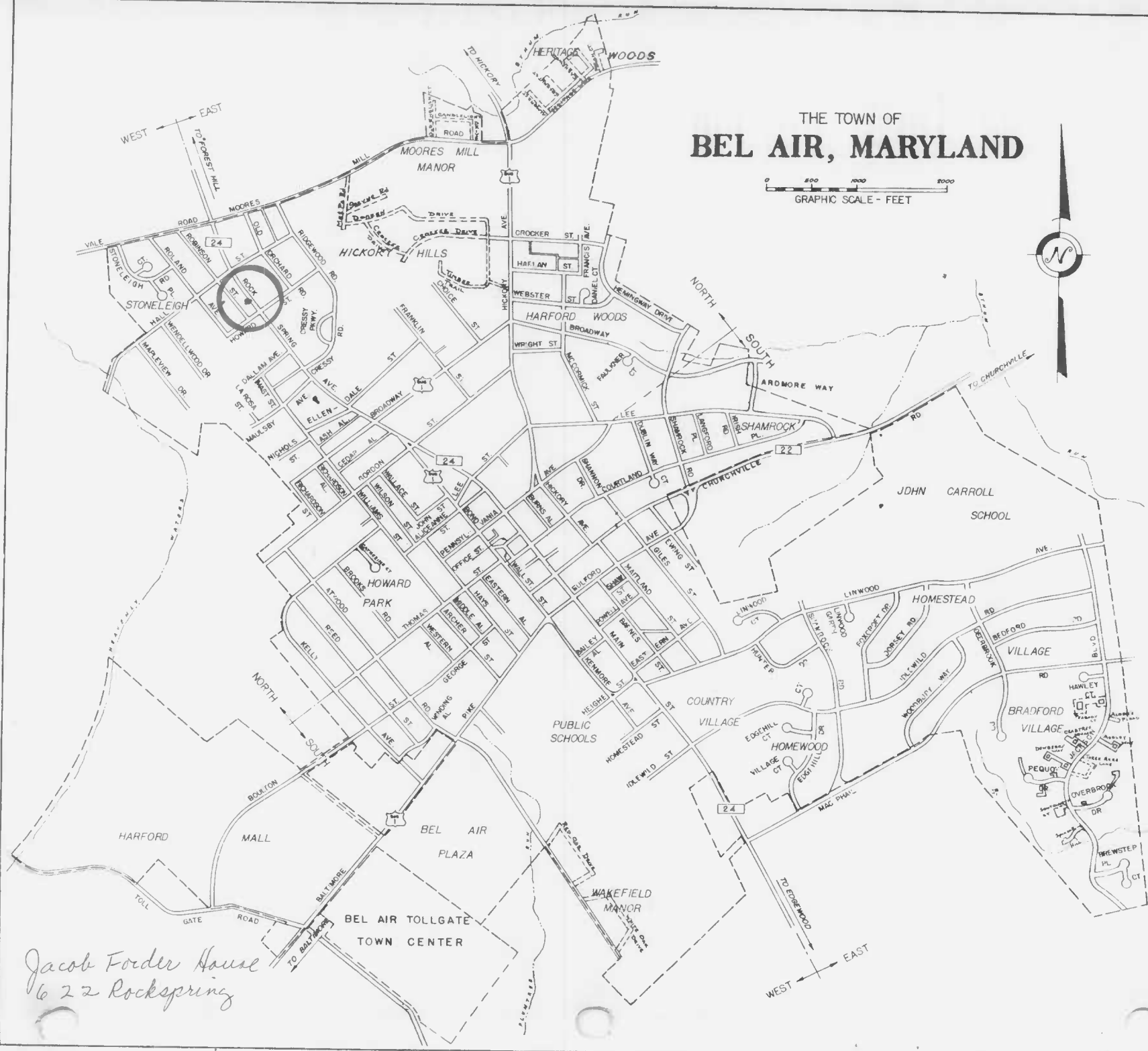
No changes.

TITLE: 622 Rock Spring

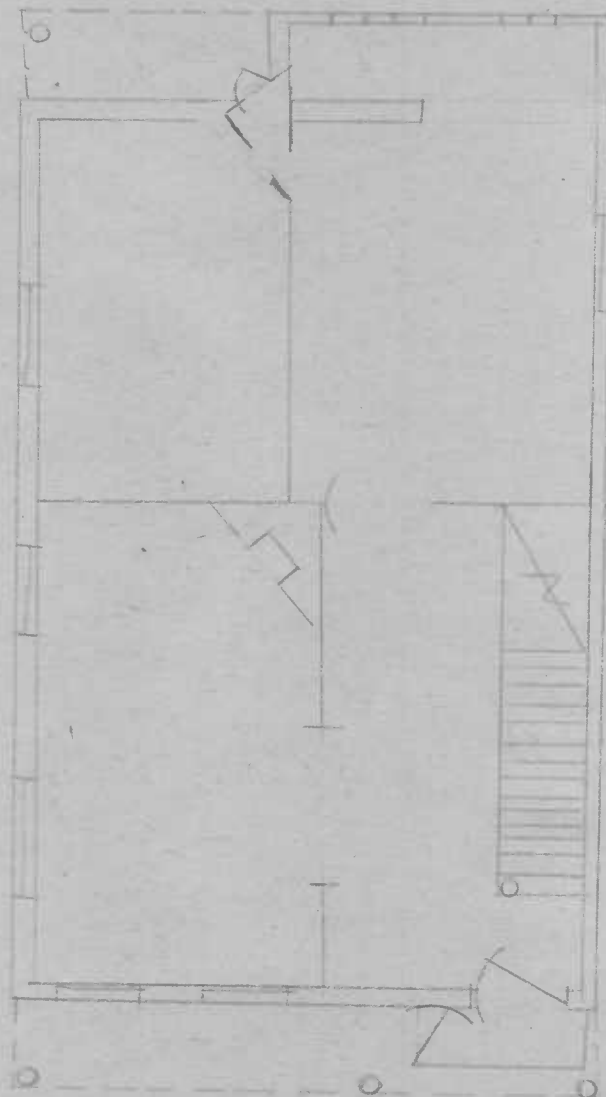
627/335	21 August 1963 C. Milton Wright, widower to Charles L. Robbins & Ann Bertha Wright is dead
213/195	15 August 1929 H. Willard Tarring & Anne to C. Milton Wright & Bertha
137/275	10 June 1912 Hannah S. McCurdy & William to H. Willard Tarring
66/523	17 June 1890 Jacob Forder & Sarah to Hannah McCurdy 2 lots from Mary Dallam 1886, 56/218 56/434

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1482
Jacob Forder House
6 22 Rockspring



McLAREN
1979

FORDER HOUSE
622 ROCKSPRING
BEL AIR

HA-1482

NOT TO SCALE





H.A.-1482

Jacob Forder House, 622 Rock Spring, East Amherst
e der

M. Larew, 1979





